7th Annual International Conference on Supplemental Instruction

May 30th to June 1st

San Diego

**Conference Theme:**

**‘Lighting the path to students success’**

**Attendee: Cornelia Forrester, Faculty, Physical Sciences Department, OHC**

The keynote address by Shane Lopez, Ph.D. Senior Scientist in Residence, The Gallup Poll (futuristic, maximize, arranger) was extremely enlightening and engaging. He talked about building hope in students being the same as we build hope in ourselves. This hope is motivational, uniquely human and costs nothing. Hopeful students are 8 times more likely to complete a course.

Another keynote speaker (Vincent Tinto Ph.D. Distinguished Professor at Syracruse University) speaks about students completing college but by completing one course at a time. All the support we offer students such as SI, Learning communities and tutoring should be connected to the classroom and classroom activities.

1. List three sessions you attended.

**Not Dead but on Life Support –How an SI program at a 2 year College rose from near death to full health**

**Description:**

Presenters: Ronald Hoskins, Stephanie Ding and Agnes Flores

These presenters shared how they built an SI program in a 2 year commuter college. The following is a list of how to for an SI supervisor:

* Determine organizational attachment for SI to secure funding and reporting
* Target historically difficult courses
* Get administrative support from the highest ranking administrator possible
* Educate your campus, faculty buy-in, establish what SI means
* Secure funding
* Identify a reliable space/ room to hold SI sessions
* Link SI outcomes to campus mission, strategic plans and initiatives and college mission
* Qualified SI leaders should be faculty recommended
* Decide whether SI attendance will be voluntary or some incentive would be used

**Soft Skills in SI**

**Description:** This was a discussion on the correlation of implicit and explicit course content and SI sessions. The presenter shared that all facets of undergraduate education should be valued both implicit and explicit experiences. There are transferable skills that are developed from the SI experience. Self motivation, self confidence, self reliance are just a few that will condition students adaptability to the world. These skills competency were mostly assessed in SI leaders. The data showed that there is development taking place even with the SI leaders who eventually become graduate students and leaders in their own rights. SI Leaders were asked to complete weekly reflective journals and have group meetings to share ideas and experiences to help build their confidence and methods.

 **Increasing students retention of Content Covered in SI sessions**
**Description:**

Activities that can be used to help students retain information and document critical information.

* The sessions should be like a sandwich the opener, meat and closer
* Summary Corner; definitions, formulas, equations, resource references, solutions methods, common pitfalls
* Students repeating or rephrasing others statements
* Closure: final ten minutes of presentation, no new information, only reviews

1. One significant item you learned from the conference that you were unaware of and would like to share with the college?

Building hopefulness in students, helping them see a glimpse of their future can build retention. The support we offer students must be connected to the classroom.

3. What would one program / activity you would recommend we implement immediately? (Short Term)

Implementing SI in the STEM related courses as soon as Fall 2012. This could be a double strategy with our tutoring efforts. To help our students get that we are here to help them learn and we have many different opportunities for them to do so.

4. What would one program/activity you would recommend we implement in FY 14 budget (Long Term)

An SI area: A designated area for SI activities.

5.  If we had available funds what would you recommend we implement?

Hire SI Leaders and start rolling this out

6.  Additional comments pertaining to how this conference supports the grant objectives or KPIs of the District.

Based on the data; SI has helped other schools with retention of students, assisting students with achieving SLO’s and improvement of graduation rates.